

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

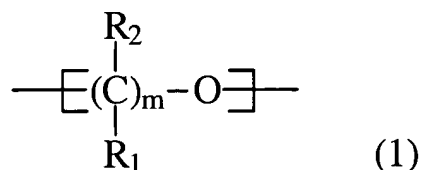
The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 – 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a stretched polyoxymethylene product, comprising the steps of:

(a) melt-extruding a polyoxymethylene copolymer to obtain a melt-extruded rod-like molded article; and then

(b) uniaxially stretching the melt-extruded molded article by 2 to 40 times under ~~normal~~ atmospheric pressure and under heating at a temperature from the glass transition point to the melting point of said polyoxymethylene copolymer to obtain a stretched product having a sectional area of from 0.003 to 700 mm², said polyoxymethylene copolymer having a melt index (190°C, load: 2160 g) of from 0.3 to 20 g/10 min and containing, in the polymer chain mainly comprising an oxymethylene repeating unit, an oxyalkylene unit represented by the following formula (1) in an amount of from 0.5 to 10 mol per 100 mol of the oxymethylene unit:



wherein R₁ and R₂ each is selected from hydrogen, an alkyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms, an organic group having an alkyl group with from 1 to 8 carbon atoms, a phenyl group, and an organic group having a phenyl group, R₁ and R₂ may be the same or different, and m represents an integer of from 2 to 6, and

(c) heat-fixing the stretched product according to step (b) at a heat-fixing temperature of between 120⁰C ~~or more~~ and 180⁰C for a time sufficient to fix the molecular state of the stretched polyoxymethylene product.

10 -12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the polyoxymethylene copolymer contains said oxyalkylene unit in an amount of from 1.2 to 8 mol per 100 mol of the oxymethylene unit.

14. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the polyoxymethylene copolymer contains said oxyalkylene unit in an amount of from 2 to 6 mol per 100 mol of the oxymethylene unit.

15. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the polyoxymethylene copolymer has a melt index of from 0.5 to 10 g/10 min.

16. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the polyoxymethylene copolymer has a melt index of from 0.5 to 5 g/10 min.

17. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the polyoxymethylene copolymer has a branched or cross-linked structure.

18. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the polyoxymethylene copolymer has from 0 to 4 mmol/kg of a hemiformal terminal group.

19. (Previously Amended) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the sectional area of the stretched product is from 0.005 to 300 mm².

20. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the rod-like molded article is hollow.